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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy MOSCOW — NO. 213 — SEP 8 1961

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON — DATE September 8, 1961

REF :

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SUBJECT: JOINT WEEKA NO. 36

INDEX

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. Berlin Crisis
2. Belgrade Conference
3. Nehru Visit
4. Nuclear Testing
5. Brazil
6. Congo
7. Institute of Soviet-American Relations
8. Visitors

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

9. Public Opinion and the Berlin Crisis
10. Build-Up for the XXII CPSU Congress
11. Spy Charges Against U.S. Tourist Are Part of Revived Vigilance Campaign
12. Moscow's "Mayor" Joins the USSR Council of Ministers
13. Three More Instances of Violence: Another Police Station Attacked
14. Isayev, Kirgiz Public Enemy Number One, Receives a Surprisingly Light Sentence

MILITARY - JOINT

15. Soviet Joint Exercises in the Barents and Kara Seas.

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO:	ACTION TAKEN	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL	DATE OF ACTION	
Moscow EBains CS	9/17/61	File

EXTERNAL - POLITICAL

1. BERLIN CRISIS. The Soviet note of September 2, responding to the Western notes of August 26, denounced alleged abuse of the air corridors between the Federal Republic and West Berlin for the transportation of "West German revanchists" and contended that the use of the air corridors by commercial airlines is not provided for in past four-power agreements on this subject. The Soviet note was subsequently published by all Moscow papers, although Izvestiya only also published the U.S. note of August 26. All Moscow papers (September 7) published a TASS summary of the Soviet Berlin Commandant's statement of September 5, warning that provocations directed against Soviet Air Safety Center personnel would endanger the operation of BASC.

The major vehicle for Soviet press comment and propaganda on the Berlin crisis this week, however, was the Belgrade Conference. Throughout the week, reports from Belgrade emphasized statements by Afro-Asian leaders, which allegedly called for de facto recognition of the existence of two German states. The Soviet press hailed these statements with undisguised glee and reported that gloom had settled over Bonn.

In an unusual reference suggesting the possibility of UN action in the Berlin crisis, a TASS story from Berlin reported a declaration by the women's front organization, WIDF, which called on all women to exert influence on their governments and the UN General Assembly to compel a peaceful resolution of the German problem and liquidation of the dangerous remnants of the Second World War.

Reports of "provocations" from West Berlin continued, but at a reduced volume. The annual Tag der Heimat meeting, which, in the past, has evoked violent Soviet criticism, passed almost unmentioned this week with only a brief TASS account reporting the event in tired terms as an "annual provocation".

Western defense build-up measures continue to be reported in the Soviet press. The Red Army organ, Red Star, reported rumors that the West would increase the number of U.S. divisions in Europe to six, and that the NATO force would increase to a total of 37 divisions. Most papers noted press reports from Bonn that the Bundeswehr will postpone the demobilization of 40,000 men for six months as part of the Bundeswehr build-up.

The daily publication of letters from Soviet citizens in the press, pledging support to the government's recent measures to increase its military strength, petered out as the week closed.

2. NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. Soviet press coverage of the Non-Aligned Conference emphasized those speeches containing views compatible with Soviet positions on such issues as Germany and Berlin, general and complete disarmament, anti-colonialism, and the restructuring of the UN. Major attention was accorded the speeches given by Sukarno, Nkrumah, and Tito. In addition, TASS news despatches played up statements calling for a new meeting between President Kennedy and Chairman Khrushchev. In commentary on the Conference, Soviet correspondents attempted to convey the impression that the meeting had caused noticeable disappointment and irritation in Washington because the delegates had leaned to the Moscow viewpoint

on Berlin and disarmament. Nevertheless, it appeared that the Soviet Government itself was disappointed over the noncommittal reference to Germany and Berlin in the Conference documents, as contrasted with some of the individual speeches supporting Soviet views. In their press coverage, the Soviets had made it rather clear that the value and importance of the Conference decisions would depend on whether they benefited the "cause of peace", i.e., accorded with the Soviet position on Germany and Berlin.

An appeal drafted at the Conference was handed to Khrushchev by Prime Minister Nehru and President Nkrumah on September 6.

3. NEHRU VISIT. Prime Minister Nehru arrived in the Soviet Union for a state visit on September 6. With one exception, public statements made by both Khrushchev and Nehru thus far have been rather bland. In a short speech at a Kremlin dinner, however, Khrushchev made some rather pointed remarks repeating the Soviet position on Germany, adding that peace can be achieved only by the joint, active efforts of all peoples and governments, including governments of neutral countries.

COMMENT: It is possible that Khrushchev's remarks reflected some irritation over the Non-Aligned Conference's noncommittal treatment of the German issue on its final communique and the role that Nehru may have played in this connection.

Nehru will depart from Moscow on September 9 for Tashkent, where he is expected to spend a night before returning to New Delhi.

4. NUCLEAR TESTING. Following the announcement of August 31, regarding resumption of nuclear testing, Soviet propaganda was very much on the defensive, arguing that the decision was necessary because of the West's failure to respond to the "peaceful initiatives" of the Soviet Union. The announcement that the U.S. would resume testing in laboratories and underground, however, resulted in a quick shift to the offensive. An "Observer" article in Izvestiya charged that the U.S.-U.K. proposal calling for a ban on atmospheric testing was obviously insincere since the U.S. did not even wait for a reply before announcing that it would itself resume testing. Soviet news media have still (September 8) not carried any announcements regarding the series of nuclear tests that have been carried out in the atmosphere by the Soviets.

5. BRAZIL. The Soviet press reported developments in the Brazilian governmental crisis on a daily basis. Vice President Goulart clearly emerged as the hero of the Soviet accounts, and charges that the U.S. engineered Quadros' resignation and efforts to prevent Goulart's assumption were given considerable prominence.

6. CONGO. On August 31, Khrushchev addressed a message to Prime Minister Adoula of the Congo, stating that the Soviet Government, recognizing that the Adoula Government was the successor of the first central government headed by Lumumba, would continue to maintain diplomatic relations with the Congo. In a carefully worded response, Adoula welcomed Khrushchev's message, but avoided any commitment to establish diplomatic relations.

7. Institute of Soviet-American Relations. Although the timing seemed somewhat inept, the Soviets announced that an Institute of Soviet-American Relations had been founded in August 31 in Moscow, under the presidency of N.N. Blokhin, President of the USSR Academy of Sciences. Reportedly, the Institute's membership is composed primarily of persons who have already been in the U.S. and who are acquainted with American life. The Institute may be intended to underline the Soviet wish to expand cultural exchanges and trade and to give the impression that U.S.-Soviet tensions over Berlin will only be temporary.

8. VISITORS. In addition to the arrival of Indian Prime Minister Nehru and Ghanaian President Nkrumah following the Belgrade Conference, the following visitors were also in Moscow during the reporting period:

(1) A Congo (Brazzaville) delegation, including the Ministers of Planning and Public Works, arrived in Moscow September 7. The delegation is visiting the French exhibit in Moscow and receiving considerable attention from Soviet trade and cultural officials.

(2) British MP's Plummer and extreme left-wing laborite Koni Zilliacus were received by Khrushchev on September 1.

(3) Cuban CP leader, Blas Roca, arrived in Moscow on September 1 and was met by Presidium member Kuusinen. Subsequently he played a prominent role in the funeral ceremony for American Communist William Z. Foster, and was received by Khrushchev.

(4) American Communist politburo member Elizabeth Gurley Flynn also arrived to take part in the propaganda rites for Foster.

(5) Venezuelan MP's led by Rondo Loureva were received by Brezhnev before departing on September 7.

(6) French Communist Maurice Thorez departed on September 5, after another of his frequent visits.

(7) New York Times international-affairs columnist Cyrus Sulzberger had a lengthy interview with Khrushchev on September 6.

(8) Moroccan religious leaders, in a delegation headed by the Minister for Islamic Affairs, Fallem el Fassi, arrived September 6 for an extended visit to Soviet Central Asia and Kazakhistan.

INTERNAL - POLITICAL

9. Public Opinion and the Berlin Crisis. Members of the Soviet intelligentsia have been concerned over the international situation for some time, but, as a group, have appeared to rule out war as "unthinkable". During the past week, however, probably as a reaction to the Soviet Government's announcement that nuclear testing would be resumed, individual members of this group whose opinions have reached the Embassy now seem prepared to believe that war is a possibility.

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On the other hand, there have been no clear indications that this shifting view among the intelligentsia is being reflected among less sophisticated groups in the population in hoarding or scare-buying. Thus far, Embassy officers and Western newspapermen in Moscow have noted only three isolated examples of scare-buying: 1) a Latvian newspaper article (WEEKA No. 35, September 1), 2) a report by British tourists passing through Lvov that panic-buying had depleted certain stocks in some stores, and 3) a report by one Moscow taxi-driver that he knew of Moscow families whose servants were being sent around to make precautionary purchases.

10. BUILD-UP FOR THE XXII CPSU CONGRESS. Voluminous propaganda in the press connected with the proposed Party Program and new Statute, which are to be approved at the Congress (opening October 17), and the election of Congress delegates, convey the impression that everything, so far, is going according to schedule.

The election of delegates to the Congress is accompanied by human interest stories in the press apparently designed to show the reader that a delegate to the CPSU Congress is "just an average worker--like you". The first of the Republic Party Congresses (Azerbaidzhan) opened on schedule in Baku, on September 6 (Pravda, September 7, 1961).

Despite the appearance of normalcy thus created with regard to the progression of events towards the opening of the All-Union Congress, a rumor is circulating in Moscow to the effect that plans are afoot to postpone it (Emb A-177, September 8, 1961).

11. SPY CHARGES AGAINST U.S. TOURIST ARE PART OF REVIVED VIGILANCE CAMPAIGN. Izvestiya, September 5, reported that Marvin William Makinen had been sentenced to eight years deprivation of liberty for espionage under Article 57 ("Espionage") of the Ukrainian SSR Criminal Code. Allegedly, Makinen, a student of the Free University of West Berlin, was briefed by two U.S. intelligence agents before departing on an automobile tour of the USSR and given a series of intelligence objectives in the Ukraine and elsewhere along his route.

The affair is tied directly to the Berlin crisis and is accompanied by a rising volume of appeals on the radio, TV, and press to the population to be "vigilant".

On September 6, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave the Embassy permission for consular access to Makinen. The Chief of the Embassy's Consular Affairs Section is scheduled to see him in Kiev on September 8 or 9.

12. MOSCOW'S "MAYOR" JOINS THE USSR COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. On September 4, it was announced that CC-CPSU member N. I. Bobrovnikov, until September 3 Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Moscow City Soviet, or, in effect, mayor of Moscow, had been appointed Deputy Chairman of the State Economic and Scientific Council of the USSR Council of Ministers with the rank of Minister of the USSR (Pravda, September 4, 1961).

It is unlikely that this shift is connected with any instability in the Moscow apparat, but rather with a desire to get more competent administrators into key industrial and science planning positions. (Emb A-197, September 5, 1961).

13. THREE MORE INSTANCES OF VIOLENCE: ANOTHER POLICE STATION ATTACKED. On September 6, for the second time in three weeks (WEEKA No. 33, August 18), it was reported that a Soviet police station (in Aleksandrov, 50 miles north of Moscow) had been attacked by "bandits". Four of the "bandits" were sentenced to death. This incident closely parall[illegible] an earlier rumor. The rumor said that a "Party headquarters" building in a town near Moscow had been destroyed by an enraged mob angry at the failure of Party officials to take any action against hooligans who had murdered a boy.

Similar tales of criminal violence are now quite frequent in the Soviet press. For example, three knife-wielding trade-school boys from Ufa attacked passersby, seriously wounding them (Izvestiya, September 5, 1961). In another example, Evening Moscow (September 6, 1961) discussed the recent case of a Communist Party member whose one-year sentence for killing a hooligan who broke into his home was commuted after his friends and the press had engaged in considerable agitation on his behalf.

14. ISAYEV, KIRGIZ PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE RECEIVES A SURPRISINGLY LIGHT SENTENCE. Former First Secretary of the Tyan'-Shan' Oblast Party Committee, M. Isayev, was singled out by N. S. Khrushchev at the January CC Plenum on agriculture as an especially bad example of party leadership. Not only was Isayev responsible for padding production accounts in his oblast, but certain irresponsible Kirgiz leaders had promoted him to Minister of Internal Affairs.

In the wake of Khrushchev's criticism, Isayev was dismissed from his MVD post, disgraced, and arrested pending criminal charges. Much later, on September 1, it was announced that he had been sentenced to only one year deprivation of liberty for account padding (Sovetskaya Kirgiziya, September 1, 1961). His sentence may be based on a USSR law punishing account-padders, passed May 24, 1961, which provided for a one-to-three-year sentence. Since, judging by earlier reports and Khrushchev's condemnation, Isayev could have been charged with crimes more serious than "account-padding", his minimal sentence on a relatively minor charge indicates he has received preferential treatment (Emb D-214, September 9, 1961).

MILITARY - JOINT

15. SOVIET JOINT EXERCISES IN THE BARENTS AND KARA SEAS. Red Star of 2 September carried a Ministry of Defense announcement that, in accordance with the plan of military preparedness, the Soviet Northern Fleet together with rocket forces and air forces will conduct exercises with "actual application of various types of modern weapons" in the Barents and Kara Seas. The Ministry therefore warned all Soviet and foreign ships and aircraft that it will not be responsible for any damage incurred if the danger area is entered between 10 September and 15 November. The danger area is bounded on the west by the 42nd meridian and on the north by the 77°30' parallel. The southern and eastern borders are defined by a line connecting the following points: (a) 7030N 4200E (b) 6950N 5530E (c) 7220N 6500E (d) 7730N 7400E.

ADJUSTMENT

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Encl. No.
Desp. No. 213
From MOSCOW

COMMENT: The above announcement was carried only in Red Star and has not been noted in other newspapers. The Embassy has not yet received formal notification of the above announcement. (UNCLASSIFIED)

For the Ambassador:

R. T. Davies
First Secretary of Embassy

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